

Film details history of mining in Utah

See
Jerry Springer

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Special to The Daily Herald

Anybody who has ever driven anywhere in this state of ours (and until light-rail transit becomes a reality, that includes most people), knows that a major part of Utah's traditional economic base has been and remains mining. What you might not know is that it makes for great television.

The Daily Herald Celebrates the



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Mining? On television?

That's probably what the studio executives thought too. However, Lee Groberg and his associate persevered, over a year of research and 13 months of filming, to produce *Treasure House — The Utah Mining Story*.

Made at the request of the Utah Statehood Centennial Commission, with funding from over 60 local and national foundations and corporations, Groberg's film tells the story of Utah's mining industry over the past hundred years in sumptuous detail. It will have its broadcast debut on KUED Saturday at 7 p.m.

"It is truly a remarkable piece of film," said Kim Burningham, director of the Statehood Centennial Commission office. "My wife and I watched it just the other day, and it was so powerful. You'd never think that a grimy, straightforward subject like mining could provide such colorful, vital drama, but there it is."

Perhaps Groberg's achievement is not without precedent: after all, Ken Burns has spent six years

showing PBS audiences — via *The Civil War* and *Baseball* — just how powerful old photographs, newsreels and diary entries can be in the right setting. Groberg borrows from some of Burns' style, but he also included commissioned artwork, computer-generated graphics and live re-creations. The result is a truly composite history of key events that "official history" might have forgotten about.

"Probably the most touching part of the film is its re-telling of the Scofield mining disaster in 1902," Burningham said. "Scofield was a strongly Finnish town at that time, with many immigrants having brought their families and kinfolk over because of the great mining opportunities Utah promised. When the mines collapsed, whole families were lost. Over 200 people died, which was more coffins than state authorities could scrounge up — they had to send for more from out of state."

Remembering tragic stories like these has become more important over the last 30 years, as filmmakers have struggled diligently to tell history from other than the usual "elite" points of view.

One such discovery of Groberg's was a strike at Kennecott, which almost became a riot between police and desperate workers. Did politicians resolve things? Nope.

"Groberg got a hold of some old notes taken by a Greek Orthodox minister, and that just opened the whole story up," Burningham said. "A lot of the miners in those days were Greek immigrants, and they respected their religious leaders. They helped the workers get a settlement, and saved Utah from what could have been a very bloody stain."

Narrated by Ed Ames, the film travels all around and under the state (at one point the whole film crew was 1,500 feet underground). Copies of the film, along with an education guide, will be donated to Utah schools as part of the Utah Centennial.



Brigham Young University's folk dance program will present two concerts Satur-

day at 4 and 7:30 p.m. Performances for inter-

BYU folk dancers pr

Top performers from Brigham Young University's folk dance program will offer a once-a-year concert highlighting what its Performing Arts Company presents on international tours when they give two performances Saturday.

Concerts will be at 4 and 7:30 p.m. in the Dance Studio Theater (166 Richards Building). Tickets at \$4 are available by either call-

ing 378-5859 or visiting the ticket office at 165 Richards Building between 1 and 4 p.m.

Although tickets will be available at the door, tickets are limited and cannot be guaranteed.

Ed Austin, artistic director, inaugurated the concerts as a way of letting local audiences see dances otherwise not generally available to them.

Choirs, BYU Philharmonic

The BYU Philharmonic, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus and Concert Choir will present their popular semester-end combined performance Friday.

The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the de Jong Concert

Hall. Tickets at \$6 for the public, \$5 for senior citizens and \$4 for students can be purchased from the Fine Arts Ticket Office at 378-4322.

The groups will perform pieces by British composers. The men

Playhouse schedules auditions